

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 983

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor Summer Owens for her estimable efforts toward improving her community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated much of their time to helping to improve the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Summer Owens is one such estimable person, who has used her own experience as a teenage mother to encourage and inspire other young women who have shared her experiences; and

WHEREAS, despite becoming pregnant at age fifteen, Ms. Owens displayed great determination and strength of character as she finished high school, overcame emotional issues, graduated from college with honors, built a career, and bought a house while raising her child as a single mother; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens' dedication to her dreams led her to write *Life After Birth: A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother*, in which she depicts the real struggles she faced as a teenage mother, with the hope that her transparency will encourage and inspire other teenage and single mothers, as well as show that life doesn't have to end when the child is born; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens speaks to audiences throughout the country to discourage teen pregnancy while encouraging teen mothers and others facing life's challenges; and

WHEREAS, to expand the impact of her book and speeches, she launched S.O. What!, a movement that empowers people to embrace their differences, imperfections, and circumstances in order to focus on things that really matter, by eliminating excuses, overcoming obstacles, and changing their conditions while using the Serenity Prayer as their guide; and

WHEREAS, Summer Owens has worked tirelessly to encourage and support young women so that they never feel abandoned by their communities, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Summer Owens for her efforts to improve the lives of others, applaud her hard work throughout her life, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.